

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 DLOS-09 CIAE-00
DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
ACDA-07 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00
COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01
TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 NSC-05
NSF-01 OES-06 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 /123 W

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O R 150910Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6281
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 5103

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLOS, UR, US
SUBJECT: LOS: US-S.E. ASIA CONSULTATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 81604, (B) KUALA LUMPUR 1938, (C) JAKARTA 4178

1. POLITICAL COUNSELOR AND EMBASSY LOS OFFICER CALLED ON VALENTIN ROMANOV, DEPUTY CHIEF OF SOVIET MFA'S TREATY AND LEGAL DIVISION AND BORIS KHABIROV OF THAT OFFICE ON APRIL 14 TO PRESENT BRIEFING ON AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON'S RECENT LOS CONSULTATIONS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. POL COUNSELOR LEFT COPIES OF NON-PAPER INCORPORATING MOST OF REF A (WITH APPROPRIATE DELETIONS), AND COPIES OF THE DRAFT CONFIDENTIAL

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INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT, THE DRAFT AMENDMENT TO PART III, ARTICLE 42 (REF B), AND THE JAKARTA JOINT PRESS STATEMENT (REF C). IN ADDITION, POL COUNSELOR MADE AN ORAL PRESENTATION URGING SOVIET RESISTANCE TO AMENDMENTS TO STRAITS ARTICLES AND SUPPORT FOR THE PACKAGE AS DESCRIBED IN THE NON-PAPER. HE ALSO OFFERED TO CONVEY ANY SOVIET QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS ON THESE OR

OTHER QUESTIONS TO DEPARTMENT, AND ASKED FOR SOVIET READ-OUT ON MOSCOW VISITS BY MALAYSIAN MINISTER KADIR AND EARLIER BY INDONESIAN MINISTER MOCHTAR (REF A, PARA 21).

2. ROMANOV RESPONDED FIRST BY SAYING THAT MINISTER KADIR IS DUE IN MOSCOW ON SATURDAY, APRIL 16, AND THAT THE SOVIETS THEREFORE GREATLY APPRECIATED THIS DETAILED BRIEFING IN ADVANCE OF KADIR'S ARRIVAL. ROMANOV PROMISED TO PASS OUR MESSAGE TO DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER KOZYREV AT ONCE.

3. ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE ISSUES, ROMANOV'S INITIAL RESPONSE WAS THAT THE SOVIET POSITION ON STRAITS AND ARCHIPELAGOS "DID NOT DIFFER" FROM THE U.S. POSITION AS PRESENTED IN THE LAST LOS SESSION. HE SAID THAT MOSCOW STRONGLY OPPOSES REVISION OF THE STRAITS ARTICLES AND AGREES THAT THE MATTER SHOULD NOT BE RE-OPENED. TO ROMANOV'S QUESTION ON WHETHER THE U.S. OPPOSED ALL MALAYSIAN AMENDMENTS, WE REPLIED BY REFERRING TO THE NON-PAPER AND THE PROPOSED REVISION TO PART III, ARTICLE 42 AS AN EFFORT TO MEET MALAYSIAN CONCERNS ON UNDER KEEL CLEARANCE (UKC). ON THE QUESTION OF THE "INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT," ROMANOV WAS SKEPTICAL. HE ASKED WHETHER IT WAS INTENDED TO BECOME A PART OF THE OFFICIAL RECORD OF THE LOS CONVENTION. WE REPLIED THAT THIS WAS APPARENTLY NOT THE INTENTION, BUT THAT IT WAS AN EFFORT TO MEET MALAYSIA'S CONCERNS WHILE AVOIDING A CONFIDENTIAL

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MORE GENERAL DISCUSSION. ROMANOV THEN ASKED WHETHER THIS APPROACH MIGHT NOT RESULT IN INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENTS BY OTHER COUNTRIES ON OTHER ISSUES, THEREBY IN EFFECT QUALIFYING SOME KEY POINTS IN THE OVERALL CONVENTION. WE REPLIED THAT WE WOULD REPORT THIS CONCERN.

4. ON THE QUESTION OF INDONESIA'S APPARENT EFFORT TO ADD LIMITATIONS ON CIVIL AVIATION OVER ARCHIPELAGIC WATERS (REF A PARA 14), ROMANOV SAID THAT THE SOVIETS SUPPORT THE PRESENT LANGUAGE OF THE RSNT ON THIS MATTER. HE SAID THAT THE REFERENCE TO "TECHNICAL RULES" GOVERNING CIVIL AVIATION WAS UNDERSTOOD TO MEAN EXISTING INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION REGULATIONS INCLUDING THE CHICAGO CONVENTION OF 1944. IT WAS NEITHER NECESSARY NOR DESIRABLE TO MODIFY THIS LANGUAGE BY MORE SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO THESE MATTERS. HE SAID THAT THE SOVIET POSITION ON THIS ISSUE HAD NOT CHANGED, AND WAS IN ACCORD

WITH U.S. VIEWS.

5. ON THE QUESTION OF SOVIET BRIEFINGS ON THE KADIR AND MOCHTAR VISITS, HE NOTED THAT THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAD BRIEFED ON THE LATTER, AND HE WAS FAVORABLY INCLINED TOWARDS BRIEFING US ON KADIR'S VISIT.

6. ROMANOV SAID THAT HE WOULD READ OUR BRIEFING PAPER CAREFULLY AND WOULD CALL US IF ANY QUESTIONS CAME UP NEEDING CLARIFICATION. HE SUMMED UP BY SAYING THAT OUR "BASIC APPROACH" WAS SIMILAR AND HE AGAIN EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE BRIEFING PAPER.
TOON

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